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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/722,390 | 11/28/2003 | Ik Kun Kwon | K-0579 | 7182 |
| 34610 | 7590 | 09/15/2006 | EXAMINER | |
| FLESHNER & KIM, LLP P.O. BOX 221200 CHANTILLY, VA 20153 | | | PATEL, RITA RAMESH | |
| | | ART UNIT | | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | | 1746 |

DATE MAILED: 09/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/722,390 | KWON, IK KUN | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Rita R. Patel | 1746 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 November 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 28 November 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

| | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Acknowledgement has been made of applicant's claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119. This application claims benefit of Korean Application No. 10-2002-0075056 filed on November 28, 2002.

Drawings

The drawings received 11/28/03 are acceptable for examination purposes. Appropriate correction is required.

Specification Objections

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: claims 1 and 11 require the limitation "a hook rotatably coupled to the shaft wherein a head of the shaft penetrates the doorframe to be externally exposed", however in the drawings nor in the specification of the application is there such a teaching of a shaft which penetrates the doorframe to be externally exposed. Rather, the specification recites that the hook penetrates the doorframe to be externally exposed (pg. 10, Paragraph [0047]). In Figure 7 of the drawings, hook 233 is illustratively shown to be externally exposed by way of protruding through the door frame. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim 11 is objected to because of the following informalities: the word "rum" on line 46 appears to be a misspelling of the word "drum". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Claims 1 and 11 contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Specifically applicant claims, "a hook rotatably coupled to the shaft wherein a head of the shaft penetrates the doorframe to be externally exposed". However, the shaft has not been depicted in the drawings to penetrate the doorframe and thus be externally exposed. Instead, the shaft is shown to lie entirely within the walls of the doorframe. Moreover, in the specification the applicant teaches that rather the shaft extend through the doorframe, the hook actually penetrates the doorframe and is externally exposed outside the frame; this teaching is supported by the drawings and namely Figure 7. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would not clearly be enabled to make and use the invention as currently recited in claims 1 and 11.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-2 and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over White (US Patent No. 3,603,631).

White teaches a push release latch particularly adapted for use on appliance cabinets, which reads on applicant's claim for a washing machine. White's push release latch having a projecting portion 29 which reads on applicant's claim for a hook; a coil spring 49 which reads on applicant's claim for an elastic member; spring slip follower 50 and end 43 which reads on applicant's claim for a pair of supporters; and walls 17, 18 which read on applicant claims for an inner and outer frame. However, White fails to stately provide the projection portion 29 penetrating the doorframe such that it is exposed. The projection portion 29 is formed perpendicular to the doorframe and is illustrated to connect to the door frame in an undisclosed manner by White regarding its penetration through the door, but it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to form such a projection portion into the wall such that it penetrates through the doorframe as a design choice in providing increased reinforcement for said springs and supporters formed thereon. The projection portion is characterized by its ability to connect internal and external components of such a push latch, in operational function with one another, thus one skilled in the art

would find it an obvious design choice to expressly form the shaft-like portion through the doorframe. Obvious choice in design was held to have been obvious. *Concrete Unlimited Inc. v. Cementcraft Inc.* 227 USPQ 784 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Kuhle* 188 USPQ 7 (CCPA 1975).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Price et al. (US Patent No. 5,630,630) teaches a latch mechanism with a shank assembly 94 held in place by flanges 78 and 82; about the body of the shank 94 is spring 60. Price further discloses an assembly of the hook portion 54 and latch handle 12, wherein the hook portion 12 penetrates the doorframe.

Ostdiek et al. (US Patent No. 6,036,241) teaches a locking mechanism for an appliance door which has a locking shaft 132, a locking element 114, a tab 40, compression spring 130, an abutment plate 138, and a plate spring 156.

Additionally, Sandhu et al. teaches a latch mechanism for vehicle glove boxes or the like having a spring 26, end of axle member 3, a pivotable handle member 22, a locator stump member 52, and a door 12.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rita R. Patel whose telephone number is (571) 272-8701. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr can be reached on (571) 272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

RRP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Barr".

MICHAEL BARR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER